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Volume 8, Issue 45 wilcoxnewspapers.com • 269-657-3072 USPS 564-620

Area Veterans Day services planned

The Lawton American Legion Waters-Hackenberg Post 220, will hold a Veterans Day service, Tuesday, Nov. 11, at 11 a.m. at the Lawton American Legion building, 404 N. Main St., Lawton.

The Lawrence American Legion Hess Eastman Post 174 will hold a Veterans Day service, Tuesday, Nov. 11, at 10:30 a.m. at the Lawrence Veterans Memorial, Hill Cemetery, Lawrence Township.

The Paw Paw American Legion McGowan-Johnson Post will hold a Veterans Day Service, Nov. 11, beginning at 10:45 a.m. at Veterans Memorial Park, Paw Paw.

Do you need help? Write Us!

Mike Wilcox
Owner/Publisher

Every year, as the Christmas season draws near, I'm reminded just how generous our communities can be. For nearly two decades, Wilcox Newspapers has hosted what's become one of my favorite traditions: our Annual Christmas Wish Program.

It started simply enough. We asked readers who were struggling to write in and tell us what would make their Christmas a little brighter. The idea was to connect local families in need with local people who wanted to help. Over the years, it's grown into something truly special—and this year, we're doing it again.

Lately, I've heard from more families than ever who are struggling to make ends meet. The rising cost of everyday necessities, from groceries and gas to rent and utilities, has stretched household budgets thin. It's been a tough year for a lot of people, and many are finding themselves in need of a little extra help just to get by.

If you or your family are going through a difficult time, I encourage you to write to us and be as specific as you can. Tell us about your situation, your family, and how we might help make your holiday a little brighter. Most importantly, explain why you need our help. We prefer you email us at wilcoxnewspapers@gmail.com, but if you don't have access to a computer, you can always mail a letter to P.O. Box 189, Allegan, MI 49010.

Over the years, I've been amazed at the generosity that pours in from our readers and advertisers. One afternoon, while vacuuming our new office, I noticed an envelope on the floor. Inside were ten $100 bills—no note, no name, just a quiet act of kindness from someone who wanted to help. Another time, a donor sent $2,000. Several more gave $1,000 each. For a Scrooge like me, it's humbling to see just how deeply people here care for one another.

Last year alone, we were able to raise more than $20,000 in cash and gifts, helping over 70 families enjoy the holidays. This year, our goal is even higher. We hope to assist at least 100 families within our circulation areas.

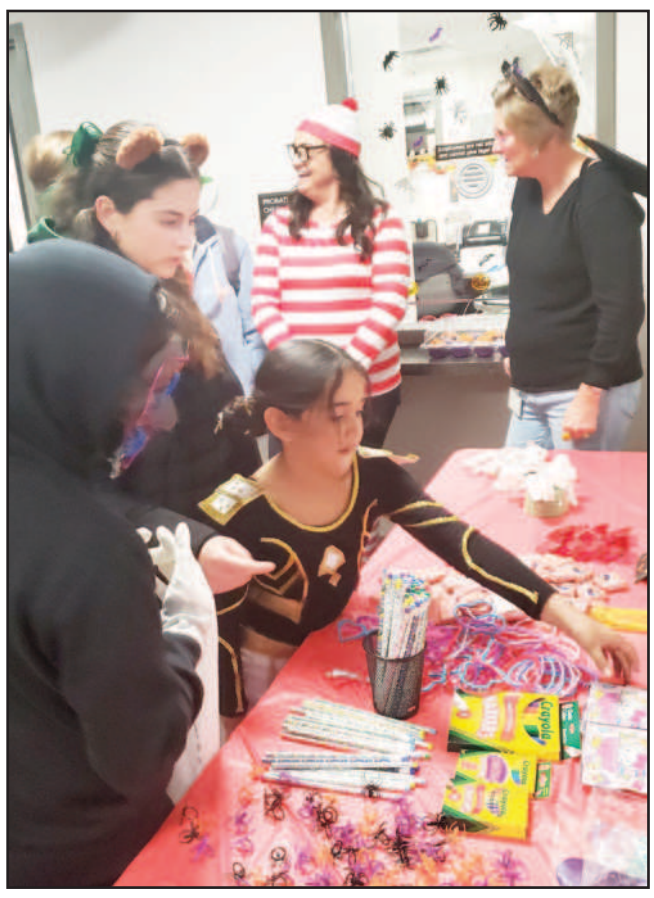
I've always believed in the saying, "We take care of our own," and nowhere is that truer than in the communities we serve. So, if you legitimately need help this Christmas, and I stress LEGITIMATELY, please reach out to us. And if you're in a position to give, know that your generosity can change someone's holiday, and maybe their outlook on life, for the better.

Lawton Village Council honors Norm and Karen Carlson

The Village of Lawton recently approved a resolution declaring Oct. 12 as Norm and Karen Carlson Day in the Village of Lawton. The two were honored for all that they do for the local community, and for being consistent supporters of Bronson Children's Hospital. The resolution was presented by Lawton Village President Josh Appleby, and Trustee Ryan Tanis.

Courtesy photo

"Fall in the Courthouse Celebration" brings community together



The third annual "Fall in the Courthouse Celebration" was held Friday, Oct. 31, at the Van Buren County Courthouse, 212 E. Paw Paw St., Paw Paw. It featured an afternoon filled with seasonal fun, community connection, and fall spirit. The annual event invites community members, courthouse staff, and partner agencies to come together and enjoy lighthearted festivities.

Courier-Leader photos/Paul Garrod

Lawton woman accused of embezzling over $50k from school

By Paul Garrod
Staff Writer
news4garrod@gmail.com

LAWTON - A Lawton woman, a former employee of Lawton Community School, was arraigned Oct. 24, in 7th District Court, Paw Paw, on a charge of embezzlement over $50,000, but less than $100,000, according to a press release from the Lawton Police Department.

Lawton Police Chief Greg Cordes said Andrea Rice-Keister worked in the administrative office as a bookkeeper/clerk and worked with money. On Sept. 22, it was reported that Lawton Community Schools had discovered an employee responsible for embezzling money from the school.

Following an investigation by school staff and Lawton Police Department, the case was submitted to the Van Buren County Prosecutor's Office on Oct. 20. The Prosecutor's Office authorized the charge of embezzlement over $50,000 but less than $100,000, a 15-year felony.

Lawton Police Department is asking if the public has any information about this investigation, or any others. They are encouraged to contact Police Chief Cordes at the Lawton Police Department at (269) 624-2382.

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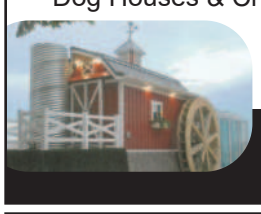

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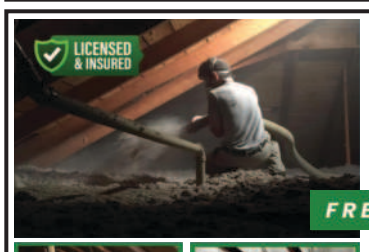

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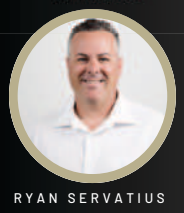

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2ND FRONT PAGE

Paw Paw Red Wolves football press box vandalized

PAW PAW - The Paw Paw Red Wolves football press box and signage around Falan Field were vandalized last weekend, according to a social media post by Paw Paw Red Wolves Athletics.

Full cans of pop and water bottles were thrown and smashed throughout the press box.

All radios and the announcer's microphone were stolen or destroyed, along with equipment used by the crew each night to track and call the games.

Additionally, there were multiple signs that were broken and ripped from the walls outside the locker rooms and restrooms along the concourse at the north end of the field.

Anyone with information about this incident is asked to contact Paw Paw Public Schools Athletic Director Alan Farnquist at: alan.farnquist@ppps.org or Trever Tate at: trever.tate@ppps.org

South Haven's favorite shopping day returns

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Katie Parrish

James Windell

For the fourth straight year, Katie Parrish has organized a "Shop 'Til You Drop" day in South Haven. Only this year it will be expanded to a two-day event.

"This is my fourth year running the 'Shop 'Til You Drop' event," says Parrish, who also owns June Bug Boutique, "and each year it has grown. I'm hoping this year will be the biggest yet."

With 49 shops and businesses in South Haven participating this year, Parrish has added movie-themed trivia on Friday night (November 7th) at South Haven Brew Pub. The theme "Shop Til You Drop Through the Cinema" will feature many of the shops celebrating the magic of Hollywood with movie-inspired decor, costumes, and themed food and drink specials.

"Each participating business will be representing their favorite cinematic movie with food, drinks, and fun," says Parrish. "There are 49 different movies including 'Alice in Wonderland,' 'Jaws,' 'Mama Mia,' 'Jurassic Park,' 'Mary Poppins,' 'Back to the Future,' 'Pirates of the Caribbean,' and many more."

Parrish has created a selfie contest on Saturday where shoppers can take their pictures with Hollywood Walk of Fame stars. "When they tag the event @ Shop TilYouDrop SouthHaven," Parish says, "they will be entered in a drawing to win a cinema-themed gift basket."

Saturday, November 8, will be like years past where shoppers can visit participating stores and enjoy food, drinks, and fun pertaining to the theme. Parrish says that also as in past years, if a shopper spends $15.00 or more at a participating store they will get a stamp on their passport. If they fill the passport with 6 stamps, they get a chance to win one of several gift baskets full of goodies worth over $300.00. There will be an after party at 7:00 pm on November 8 at Harbor Light Brewery. Winners for the gift baskets will be drawn at the after party.

Parrish adds that the "Shop 'Til You Drop" day is a blockbuster shopping day for both customers and South Haven shops. "When I speak to a lot of the businesses that participate," she says, "they say it is their biggest day of the year."

The one-day-only shopping experience takes place on Saturday, November 8, 2025 from 10:00 am until 6:00 pm. The night before, on Friday, November 7, the "Shop 'Til You Drop Movie Trivia Event" is at South Haven Brew Pub, 515 Williams Street, from 7:00 to 9:00 pm. For more information about shopping event, contact 269-214 -1618.

Paw Paw BOE accepts district resignations, approves appointments

PAW PAW – At the Paw Paw Board of Education's October meeting, the board approved letters of resignation or retirements from Chris DePierre - Later Elementary Dean of Students (retirement), Jason Streit - High School varsity assistant softball, Victor Gonzalez - High School, Junior Varsity softball, Mike Baker - High School varsity assistant wrestling, and Jason Bowers - High School varsity wrestling.

The board approved several appointments that included Jill Latham - finance director, Katie Curtis - Later Elementary fifth grade teacher, Allison Frisinger - High School varsity softball, Terry Reynolds - High School varsity assistant softball, Amy Oetjens and Jacob Zent - High School National Honor Society advisor, Jeana Steciow - High School improvement chair, Sue Goodenough - Later Elementary school improvement chair, Kelly Gendreau - Later Elementary math committee chair, Maggie Sims - Middle School Science Olympiad head coach, Ana Cafagna - Later Elementary, Middle School, High School musical assistant.

The board's next meeting will be held Nov. 10, in the high school media center

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Westbound I-94 lane closure in Van Buren County

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) was scheduled this week to repave westbound Interstate 94 under County Road 681 between Hartford and Lawrence.

Work is estimated to be completed by Saturday, Nov. 8.

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County Commissioners approve Paw Paw Christmas Celebration

By Paul Garrod
Staff Writer
news4garrod@gmail.com

PAW PAW - The Van Buren County Commissioners approved the Paw Paw Downtown Development Authority (PPDDA) to use county property, Dec. 12-14 for Paw Paw's Christmas in the Village.

The Paw Paw DDA requested the use of the main Van Buren County Courthouse parking lot and the tree in front of the courthouse on Dec. 12, for staging Santa's float following the Village Holiday Parade and holding a public tree lighting celebration.

This year's Village Parade Grand Marshal is Van Buren County Register of Deeds Paul DeYoung, DeYoung will be honored for his years of community service.

Commissioners said the request to use the tree in front of the courthouse was made due to the destruction of the village's traditional holiday tree that occurred during a summer storm.

Commissioners said the DDA plans to close Paw Paw Street for the weekend and host a Holiday Fair and shopping market, like activities held during the Wine & Harvest, and has further requested use of the County Park in the village to accommodate the market and its participants.

In another area, commissioners adopted the Van Buren County Tax Report of 2025 and the apportionment and millage of taxes to be spread in accordance with the statute.

The Van Buren County Equalization Department is responsible for ensuring that millage rates are rolled back in accordance with the Headlee Amendment and Truth in Taxation regulations. Following confirmation, a report is assembled tabulating the results for each taxing jurisdiction. The report includes a breakdown of millage rates and tax levies by county, townships, cities, villages, school districts, colleges, libraries, and renaissance zones, and estimates the total dollars to be collected. The report does not include adjustments made by the July and December Boards of Review.

Commissioners accepted the 2025 Drain and Lake Level Special Assessment Rolls totaling $972,669.17 and authorized the spread of the project special assessments to the various municipalities involved.

Commissioners approved a request for the creation of a new fulltime position titled digital communications director, to support both Van Buren and St. Joseph counties.

This role will be housed under the Digital Information Department and will be responsible for modernizing public-facing digital communications, improving accessibility and usability of government websites, and supporting strategic outreach across both counties. The position will focus on enhancing citizen engagement, content development, and regional collaboration, while also supporting various departments with public messaging strategies, technical assistance, and training related to digital communication platforms.

The position will be classified as Non-Union Grade R26, full-time at 37.5 hours per week, with an annual salary range of $48,822.11 to $67,881.65, and will be funded through the Digital Information Department budget using a cost-sharing arrangement between Van Buren and St. Joseph counties.

The current funding plan includes a combination of confirmed and prospective contributions:

- $30,000 from St. Joseph County via intergovernmental agreement;
- $15,000–$20,000 in additional SJC project funds;
- $20,000 in savings from website transition efforts (across fiscal years 2024–2026);
- $48,000 ORP grant request (decision pending November 15, 2025);
- $20,000 from SWMPC project funds (near approval);
- Additional funding discussions underway, including SJC E911 GIS-related Support.

Commissioners approved the reappointment of Cathy Ontiveros to the Van Buren County Department of Health and Human Services Board for a three-year term, ending Nov. 1, 2028.

Ontiveros has been a long-standing county appointee to the Van Buren County Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Board. Her current term is scheduled to expire on Nov. 11. Commissioners said Ontiveros expressed her continued interest in serving by formally reapplying for a new term. Commissioners further stated Ontiveros has demonstrated committed service to the DHHS Board, contributing to the oversight and direction of critical health and human service functions within the county.

Commissioners approved the P.A. 116 applications by Drozd Family Grain to place the requested property into the Farmland and Open Space Reservation Program. The property is in Bloomingdale Township. The P.A. 116 applications have been sent to the Van Buren County Planning Commission and Van Buren County Conservation District for review and recommendation prior to board action. Upon approval by the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners, the application will be forwarded to the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) for final review and approval.

Commissioners approved a request for a three-year contract with Advent, a Diversion Management Platform, for use by the Van Buren County Prosecutor's Office.

Advent is a behavior-changing, web-based instructional platform designed to support responsible personal development and cognitive behavioral treatment. Commissioners said the use of Advent will allow the county to reduce court and incarceration costs by enabling online screening, approval, and management of diversion cases, while maintaining community safety and enhancing behavioral outcomes.

The platform includes features such as real-time case notifications and customized program requirements and has demonstrated greater effectiveness in altering negative behaviors than traditional incarceration methods.

The cost of the contract is $1,200 annually for three years, and sufficient funds have been allocated in the current proposed budget to support this expense.

Commissioners approved a request for the purchase of a new three-quarter-ton replacement truck for the Van Buren County Buildings and Grounds Department. The vehicle purchase is included as an approved Capital Improvement Project (CIP) for the 2025/2026 fiscal year. The total cost of the truck is $52,952.

Michigan State Police food drive currently underway

PAW PAW - A month-long food drive being conducted by the Michigan State Police (MSP) Fifth District is currently underway. The food drive will continue until Nov. 30, to support local families and food banks across southwest Michigan.

Collection sites will be located at all Fifth District posts - Paw Paw, Niles, Wayland, Marshall, and District Headquarters - with each partnering with a local food pantry or non- profit organization to ensure donations directly support communities. Items can be dropped off in the post lobbies, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Those making donations are asked not to leave any donations outside or on the steps.

Most needed items include peanut butter, canned fruits and vegetables, cereal, soup, and beans, ready-to-eat meals (macaroni and cheese, etc.) household and hygiene items (toilet paper, soap, detergent, deodorant)

To encourage participation, a friendly district-wide competition will be held among posts, with the top-collecting post earning lunch provided by Capt. Jeremy Carlisle and Inspector Ryan Schoonveld.

"In the spirit of the giving season, we're asking our MSP family and the public to come together to help fill the shelves of our local food banks," said Capt. Jeremy Carlisle, Fifth District Commander. "Every item donated represents hope for a Michigan family this holiday season.

"In light of increased food insecurity expected this season, we encourage the public to join us in helping fill local pantry shelves and make a difference for families in need." said Capt. Carlisle.

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Business Ribbon Cuttings Held recently in Decatur

Special-Lite, Inc., 860 S. Williams St., Decatur, held its ribbon cutting Wednesday, Oct. 15. Special-Lite, Inc. is one of the village's largest employers and recently expanded its Decatur production facility and built new corporate headquarters offices at this location. Photos courtesy/Village of Decatur

The Village of Decatur participated in two local grand opening events. The Local Wash Tub, 103 W. Sherwood St., Decatur, held a ribbon cutting Sunday, Oct. 12, to mark the purchase by Ron and Michele Colvin in June 2025. The couple recently completed some business updates.

Paw Paw Fire Department participates in TSC Hometown Heroes

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The Paw Paw Fire Department recently received a $500 check from Tractor Supply Company as the fire department participated in TSC's Hometown Heroes event. Photo courtesy/Paw Paw Fire Department

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VIEWPOINT

Government shutdown can be averted- takes politicians to act instead of grandstand

MIKE'S MUSINGS

MIKE WILCOX
PUBLISHER

Another week has passed, and much of our federal government remains shuttered. Hundreds of thousands of federal employees are either furloughed or working without pay. National parks are closed, small business loans are on hold, and millions of Americans are feeling the ripple effects. SNAP benefits affecting millions of Americans have been cutoff. Once again, Washington has managed to do what no foreign adversary could: bring America to a standstill.

So how do we get the federal government back open? The answer isn't complicated — but it does require political courage, something that seems to be in short supply these days.

First, both parties must rediscover the concept of governing over grandstanding. Too often, shutdowns have become political weapons — a way for one side to force concessions by holding the entire country hostage. That approach may score points on cable news, but it's disastrous for democracy. Real leadership means compromise, not chaos. Lawmakers must start negotiating with the goal of solving problems, not humiliating their opponents.

Second, Congress should pass automatic funding provisions that prevent shutdowns altogether. Several bipartisan proposals already exist that would keep the government operating at current levels if a new budget isn't passed on time. Such a "continuing resolution safeguard" would remove the threat of shutdowns as a bargaining tool and force legislators to do their jobs without the drama. I don't understand why this hasn't been passed in the past. To me it's Legislation 101 and would put a halt to government shutdowns forever.

Third, there needs to be accountability when the government closes. Members of Congress and senior officials should not receive paychecks when federal workers don't. That simple act of fairness would go a long way in encouraging urgency. When lawmakers feel the same pain their constituents do, compromise happens faster. I ranted in my column about this last week. Why should our elected officials get paid when their constituents are doing everything to simply survive.

Fourth, we must return to regular order in budgeting — that means committees doing their work, hearings held in public, and bills debated and amended openly. The backroom, last-minute deal-making that's become the norm only breeds distrust and dysfunction. Transparency can restore both efficiency and confidence in government.

Finally, Americans themselves have a role to play. Voters must demand responsibility at the ballot box. If politicians refuse to fund the government, they shouldn't be rewarded with another term. As citizens, we have the ultimate leverage: our vote. If we keep electing obstructionists, we'll keep getting obstruction.

The cost of a shutdown isn't abstract. Families living paycheck to paycheck can't pay their bills. Veterans see benefits delayed. Rural communities lose grant support. Even the stability of our national credit can be affected. Every day that passes deepens the harm — not to the politicians in Washington, but to the people who sent them there.

I applaud the federal workers that continue to work despite not receiving a paycheck. I heard several horror stories about air traffic controllers not showing up to work thus causing a rash of cancelled flights, or at the very least delayed flights.

I flew from Michigan to Florida this past Sunday and experienced a perfect flight. We left early and arrived in Orlando half an hour early. I was either lucky, or reports have been greatly exaggerated.

Getting the federal government back open requires less finger-pointing and more responsibility. America deserves a government that works, not one that weaponizes dysfunction. It's time for both sides to put down the political talking points, sit at the table, and remember who they're supposed to serve: not their party, not their donors, but the American people.

Sheriff's Report-30 coils for a/c units reported taken from area business

Van Buren County Uniform Response handled a larceny complaint in Antwerp Township. A white, Chevrolet extended cab pickup truck, with a cap approximate year of 2003-2007, stole approximately 30 coils for air conditioning units from a business. "The suspect/suspects made two trips to steal them and removed their plate prior to doing so. Anyone with information on this is asked to call our office at (269) 657-3101," said Van Buren County Sheriff Daniel Abbott.

Alison Dean attended a Dispatch Center Supervisor School. "Numerous things are taught and gone over at the school to aid her in her supervisor position," said Sheriff Abbott.

Uniform Response handled larcenies from motor vehicles in Bloomingdale Township. Several vehicles were gone through with numerous items taken. "Anyone with any information is asked to call our office at (269) 657-3101," said Sheriff Abbott.

Uniform Response handled a large fight in the City of Gobles. "Once the investigation is complete, it'll be sent to the Van Buren County Prosecutor's Office for review," said Sheriff Abbott.

Uniform Response handled an illegal entry in Decatur Township. The victim's ex-girlfriend from over 20 years ago illegally entered his residence and then left the scene. "Deputies located the suspect, interviewed her, then lodged her for the incident," said Sheriff Abbott.

Uniform Response handled an attempted larceny from a motor vehicle in Antwerp Township. "The victim's car alarm went off; he looked out and observed two subjects running. The suspects were never located nor was anything taken," said Sheriff Abbott.

Uniform Response handled a traffic crash in Hartford Township on Interstate 94 highway. "The driver lost control and hit the cable barrier for no apparent reason. After the investigation was complete, the driver was lodged for operating under the influence of drugs," said Sheriff Abbott.

Uniform Response handled a traffic crash in Almena Township. The investigation found that a motorcycle went through a stop sign into a traffic lane with oncoming traffic. "The motorcycle was struck causing serious injuries to the 18-year-old driver not wearing a helmet," said Sheriff Abbott.

Uniform Response had a traffic stop in Hartford Township. "While investigating the stop, the passenger was found to be in possession of methamphetamine. They were lodged for the incident," said Sheriff Abbott.

Uniform Response handled a felonious assault in Lawrence Township. "It was found that an argument took place while the two involved were working together. The suspect attempted to stab the victim with scissors causing an injury. It was found through the investigation that the suspect is possibly here illegally. The investigation remains ongoing currently," said Sheriff Abbott.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Paw Paw Village Players seek your support

To the Editor:

Way back in 1969, Charley Burkett was asked to set up an adult theater program for Paw Paw Community Schools, an opportunity he jumped on quickly. But at the very first meeting of the class, his students told him that they didn't want to LEARN about theater, they wanted to DO theater. And just like that, the Paw Paw Village Players was born. We have entertained Southwest Michigan for fifty-six years with dramas, comedies, musicals, kids shows, and variety shows.

Like most other businesses, we have experienced some ups and downs, especially since COVID. Some notable highlights over the last few years were A Christmas Carol and our dinner theater event held at La Cantina. Both of those productions we had hoped to turn into annual events.

The dinner theater event, which we call Play With Your Food, this year was to be an audience participation murder mystery in mid-September. It promised to be a fun time that everyone could enjoy. We published the invitation to purchase tickets well in advance, and by the Monday before the production, we had sold six tickets. Hardly a sell-out and not fair to La Cantina. The show was canceled. It was a bit disappointing, but we decided to pick ourselves up and dust ourselves off and move on.

The next production was to be Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol. If you saw last year's production, you will remember it was not your grandparents telling of the story. This year's director had a script that promised to be just as engaging and entertaining. And we were set for two weekend showings at The Lucky Wolf in early December.

On Oct. 6 and 7, we held auditions for the show, and over the two evenings, fewer than 10 people came to audition. It was quite discouraging. By the time we were able to regroup, it was too late to put a show together for December.

So now we reach out to you, our community, to ask: what would you like to see on the stage as far as live theater? The Paw Paw Village Players is a community organization, and we want to give you what you like. We want to hear from you, our patrons and potential patrons, as well as potential cast members.

Please reach out to us. You can e-mail us at: villageplayers@ppvp.org or leave us a voice message at (269) 657-7529. I promise you every e-mail will be answered, and every phone message will be responded to.

The Village Players has been a part of this community for 56 years. We hope that you want it to continue for another 56 years.

Don Stine, President
Paw Paw Village Players

THE COURIER LEADER
PAW PAW FLASHES
SOUTH HAVEN BEACON

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Tues., November 11
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Wed., November 12
6 pm-7 pm
CHILDREN: Pokagon Band of Potawatomi History Night

Thurs., November 13
6:30 pm-7:30 pm
ADULTS: Friends Read Book Club

Fri., November 14
3 pm-4 pm
TEENS: Just for Fun Friday
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South Haven celebrates semifinal win

South Haven's Noah Weaver (4) takes the ball down the field against Fremont.

Levi DeLaRosa celebrates the game-tying goal.

By John Raffel
Correspondent

SOUTH HAVEN — It was South Haven soccer's finest hour.

Levi DeLaRosa scored the winning goal for the Rams in a 2-1 state semifinal boys semifinal victory over Fremont at Cedar Springs High School on Oct. 29 .

Fremont had entered the semifinal game with a 21-0 record.

After a scoreless first half, South Haven scored early on a penalty kick goal by Angel Barajas. Fremont scored later and it looked like overtime was inevitable until DeLaRosa came up with his game winner.

"We played with such confidence that I believe we were the better team for most of the game again," South Haven coach Randy Bautista said. "Levi found himself down the middle of the field for the game winner."

Alex Jaimes was in net for South Haven "Oh man, th is is hard to put into words, especially with that," Bautista said. "Levi drove at him and made it difficult for the defender. He had to play him to take him down. And then Angel was able to convert the PK. We were able to play a little more. They got the goal but my boys stuck in. There's a great bonding with the group where you're just playing no matter what happens. We play and whatever happens happens. We've been lucky for sure.

"Our goal was to win districts and go from there."

After the semifinal win, senior August Zoet was confident.

"We have to keep playing like we're playing," he said. "I feel no matter how good the other team is, we have to meet their skill and beat them by one."

Gobles girls runners take seventh place

All-State Award Winners: Lauren Shaffer 9th place, Libby Smith 2nd place

Gobles girls Ava DeYoung, Lauren Shaffer, Libby Smith, Taylor Cooley, Madison Cooley, Addison Tomsic, Alyssa Sparks

By John Raffel
Correspondent

GOBLES — Saturday at the cross country state finals at Michigan International Speedway, both teams came prepared to compete.

They finished strong with seven of the 14 Gobles athletes setting personal records and another one setting a season Record.

"There were 11 PRs and SRs set in the past 2 weeks. That is exactly what we train to do," Gobles coach Marc Kline said. "The ladies were rock steady holding 7th place after each mile through the 5k last Saturday. Libby Smith improved on her 3rd place finish in 2024 by placing 2nd place running (18:36.1) and Lauren Shaffer set a huge PR 19:14.3 and placed 9th, both earning All-State Honors.

Ava DeYoung ran 21:30.9, Madison Cooley set a SR (22:06.2), Taylor Cooley set a PR (22:43.2), Addison Tomsic ran 23:01.4, and Alyssa Sparks set a PR (24:27.4). They raced so well and again proved that they truly are a talented group of young ladies that work hard and run for each other and the Gobles community."

The boys "have been improving steadily throughout the last month of the season and their pack made all the difference," Kline said. "The 36-second spread is between their number 1 runner and number 5 runner). The boys finished 15th tying the 2nd best finish in boys GXC history. They were 14 after the 1st mile, dropped to 17th after mile 2, 16th after 3 miles and picked up a one place to 15th after the final tenth. Great effort."

Cole Ringel led the way and set a PR (17:59.2), Fletcher Amos ran 18:04.7, Jaxon Bunce set a PR (18:23.2), David Sager ran 18:25.7, Levi Collins set a PR (18:36.0), Cole Cannon ran 19:04.5, and Titus Sager set another PR (20:03.4)."

"A huge thank you to the community for the amazing send off on Friday" Kline said. "From the walk out through the High School, to walking in the elementary Halloween parade, to all the area businesses showing their support for the GXC teams as they made their way to Michigan International Speedway for course preview."

Mattawan cross country coach commends his runners

By John Raffel

MATTAWAN — John Ablao is Mattawan's cross country coach and said his team met expectations.

The boys placed sixth out of 9 in the SMAC Conference Meet. The girls placed seveneth out of nine.

"Highlights included boys winning the Southwest Michigan Rustbuster Invitational and two boys qualifying for the state championship and earning academic all-state,Our boys and girls improved their performances and set personal records throughout the season," Ablao said. "There were a few injuries to some of the runners."

Girls honors:1. Kate Barron-Senior- MVP-top runner most races.

BoysL Marcel Stork-Senior MVP 31st place State Championship and Academic All-State Owen Fisher- Senior 35th place State Championship and Academic All-State

"For the girls- key losses will be Kate Barron, Natalie Barron andTana Drobeck. Returners are Liv Howard, Claire Yakiwchuck, Kinsley May and Ava Garcia," Ablao said.

"For the boys key losses will be Marcel Stork, Owen Fisher, Trevor Nagra, Tanner Christensen. Returners are Connor Wessels, Brady Gildea, Caleb Elwell, Isaac Fletcher

Lookinng ahead: "Building mileage throughout the summer will equal major improvements for our team next season," Ablao said.

MIS Speedway -MHSAA Finals; Marcel Stork 31st place 15:46.30; Owen Fisher 35th place 15:47.50.

Lawton Football team advances

By John Raffel
Correspondent

LAWTON — Lawton improved to 7-3 with a 49-28 playoff victory over Constantine on Friday night in a district semifinal football game.

Lawton led 34-14 at halftime.

Lawton is 8-2 and plays at Schoolcraft on Friday

Caiden Mitchell had a 31-yard run in the first quarter and Brady Quick had a 1-yard plunge.

In the second quarter, Mitchell had a 4-yard run and Wyatt Streeter a 15-yard run for touchdowns.

Mitchell scored from 2 yards out and Tyler Hotchkiss a 3-yard run in the third.

Lawton had a 434-246 edge in total yards.

Brady Quick passed for 65 yards. Dillon Carlson had 68 yards rushing and Owen Matthies 61 yards. Hyden Markle led the defense with eight tackles.

Paw Paw's football season ends

By John Raffel
Correspondent

PAW PAW — Three Rivers traveled to Paw Paw for the first round of the Playoffs.

Three Rivers won the game 21-14 and will move on to the next round.

A Paw Paw team spokesman noted Ben Miller missed tonight's contest due to injury and Paw Paw felt the loss of his break away speed. Elias Sonneberg had himself a good night in all phases of the game however, scoring himself a special teams touchdown, going for over 100 total offensive yards, and grabbing a pick on the defensive side of the ball.

Highlights:

Elias Sonneberg: 98 yards Rushing on 23 carries, 1 rec for 3 yards: 3 solo tackles, 1 assisted, 2 TFLs, and 1 INT: 1 88 yard Kick Return TD

Carter Buhl: 71 yards Rushing yards on 16 carries 1 TD, 1 rec for 13 yards: 3 solo tackles, 4 assisted

Kalein Tate: 13 yards Rushing on 2 carries, 5 rec for 54 yards: 7 solo tackles, 4 assisted, 1 TFL

Austin Ackerman: 2 Solo tackles, 5 assisted, 1 TFL

Paw Paw soccer team celebrates season

By John Raffel
Correspondent

PAW PAW — Paw Paw's boys soccer team celebrated its season Monday night at its awards banquet.

Seniors receiving Individual Academic All State: Alex Groner, Caleb Kenyon, Spencer Babcock, Isaac Heffner, Nathan Klein and Grant Sholander

Daniel Diaz - Team MVP, 1st team All Conference, All District, All Region and All State Honorable Mention

Alex Groner - Team Defensive Co-MVP, 2nd team All Conference, All District and All Region

Grant Sholander - Team Offensive MVP, 2nd team All Conference, All District and All Region

Isaac Heffner - Team Defensive Co-MVP, 2nd team All Conference and All District

Enzo Tavela - 1st team All conference and All District

Avery Williford - Most Improved player and All Conference Honorable Mention

Santiago Nava Aviles - All Conference Honorable Mention

Gobles ends outstanding football season

By John Raffel
Correspondent

GOBLES — In the first round of the MHSAA football playoffs, the Gobles Tigers (7-3) put up a fierce fight in a 72–62 loss against Climax-Scotts, showcasing a dominant rushing attack and balanced offense.

Steven Juarez led the ground game with 345 yards and four touchdowns, while Nathan Ray added 147 yards and three scores and Aiden Beam contributed 70 yards and a touchdown. The Tigers totaled 768 yards of offense and converted all seven two-point attempts, but Climax-Scotts' offense proved equally potent. Defensively, Ray led the team with 18 tackles and an interception, supported by strong efforts from Salinas and Timms.

"Despite the loss, Gobles displayed toughness, explosive offense, and resilience throughout the high-scoring affair," coach Greg Eichler said. "The performance capped off a thrilling contest that showcased the Tigers' trademark toughness, explosive offense, and never-quit mentality — characteristics that have defined the program throughout the season.

"As the season concludes, the Gobles Football program would like to acknowledge the hard work and accomplishments of our team. We especially recognize our 11 seniors who have put our program on a new level over the last 4 years and beyond: Nathan Ray, Aiden Beam, Brett Ivester, Steven Juarez, AJ Salinas, Tucker Greffe, Devin Doorlag, Aiden Dukes, Conner Morris, Tuomas Reunanen, Manuel Moraleja Canon.

"We look forward to hearing about some of the postseason recognitions that our kids earned both on the field and in the classroom. It's a Great Day to be a Gobles Tiger."

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=• PUBLIC NOTICE •=

Almena Township
SYNOPSIS
September 17, 2025

Almena Township Board meeting was held September 17, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.
Attendance: Tim Kloosterman, Mark Roman, Kelly Redmond, John Wagner, Sandra Rickli, Joe Leduc
Absent (excused) Scott Rueff

a. Motion passed to approve amended agenda
b. Motion passed to approve meeting minutes of August 20, 2025 Disbursements approved in the amount of $40,229.40
c. Motion to approve payment to Cornerstone Construction
d. Sheriff's Dept. and Paw Paw/Mattawan Fire Dept, reports
e. Public comment offered
f. Reports by officers presented
g. Motion passed to approve payment for asbestos testing on condemned structures
h. Motion to approve Paw Paw Area Fireboard reimbursement Motion to table Earned Sick Time Act conversation
i. Motion to approve Bronco Asphalt Maintenance quote
j. Motion to approve H&H Property Maintenance quote Public comment offered
k. Meeting adjourned 7:53pm

Sandra Rickli, Clerk, Almena Township

State of Michigan
36th Judicial District - Judaical Circuit
Van Buren County
ORDER REGARDING ALTERNATE SERVICE
CASE NO 25-075091-CH
Judge Hon. Susan Metzger
Plaintiff's
Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC, c/o Counsel
Plaintiff's Attorney
Randall S. Miller & Associates, PC
By: Kimberly D. Jones (P66139)
43252 Woodward Ave.
Suite 180
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302
248-335-9200
V.
Defendant's
Joshua L. Northrop
03090 371/2 St.
Gobles, MI 49055
THE COURT FINDS:
1. Service of process upon the defendant, Joshua L. Northrop, cannot reasonably be made as provided in MCR 2.105 MCR 2.107(B)(1)(b) and service of process may be made in a manner that is reasonably calculated to give the defendant actual notice of the proceedings and an opportunity to be heard.
IT IS ORDERED:
2. Service of the summons and complaint and a copy of this order shall be made by the following method(s).
a. First-class mail to 03090 27 1/2 Street, Gobles, MI 49055.
b. Tacking or firmly affixing to the door at .
c. Delivering at to a member of the defendant's household who is of suitable age and discretion to receive process, with instructions to deliver it promptly to the defendant.
d. Other: Publication Pursuant to MCR 2.106 (D) and (F)
For each method used, proof of service must be filed promptly with the court.
3. The motion for alternate service is denied.

Judge Signature
Susan Metzger P62867
October 17,2025

State of Michigan
36th Judicial District - Judaical Circuit
Van Buren County
SUMMONS
CASE NO 25-075219-DC
Plaintiff's
Maricela Arenas-Agustin
1220 Hastings Street
Bangor, MI 49013
269-416-1665
Plaintiff's Attorney
Martha Olivia Villegas, P83628
PO Box 143,
Oshtemo, MI 49077
269-888-4703
V.
Defendant's
Leonides Alfonso-Perez
Uknown
Instructions: Check the items below that apply to you and provide any required information. Submit this form to the court clerk along with your complaint and, if necessary, a case inventory addendum (MC 21). The summons section will be completed by the court clerk.
Domestic Relations Case
There are no pending or resolved cases within the jurisdiction of the family division of the circuit court involving the family or family members of the person(s) who are the subject of the complaint.
There is one or more pending or resolved cases within the jurisdiction of the family division of the circuit court involving the family or family members of the person(s) who are the subject of the complaint. I have separately filed a completed confidential case inventory (MC 21) listing those cases.
It is unknown if there are pending or resolved cases within the jurisdiction of the family division of the circuit court involving the family or family members of the person(s) who are the subject of the complaint.
Civil Case
This is a business case in which all or part of the action includes a business or commercial dispute under MCL 600.8035.
MDHHS and a contracted health plan may have a right to recover expenses in this case. I certify that notice and a copy of the complaint will be provided to MDHHS and (if applicable) the contracted health plan in accordance with MCL 400.106(4).
There is no other pending or resolved civil action arising out of the same transaction or occurrence as alleged in the complaint.
A civil action between these parties or other parties arising out of the transaction or occurrence alleged in the complaint has been previously filed in this court, -_____Court, where it was given case number ___and assigned to Judge _____ _____.
The action remains is no longer pending.
Summons section completed by court clerk.
SUMMONS
NOTICE TO THE DEFENDANT: In the name of the people of the State of Michigan you are notified:
1. You are being sued.
2. **YOU HAVE 21 DAYS** after receiving this summons and a copy of the complaint to **file a written answer with the court** and serve a copy on the other party or **take other lawful action with the court** (28 days if you were served by mail or you were served outside of Michigan).
3. If you do not answer or take other action within the time allowed, judgment may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.
4. If you require accommodations to use the court because of a disability or if you require a foreign language interpreter to help you fully participate in court proceedings, please contact the court immediately to make arrangements.
Issue Date: 10/7/2025
Expiration Date: 1/5/2026
Court Clerk Suzie Roehm

State of Michigan Probate Court
Van Buren County
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
DECEDENT'S ESTATE
CASE NO 2023-1121-DE
Judge hon. David DiStefano
212 E. Paw Paw Street, #220,
Paw Paw, MI 49079
(269) 657-8225
Estate of VERNA JOY CARROLL, Deceased Date of Birth:* March 8, 1950
TO ALL CREDITORS: **
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, **VERNA JOY CARROLL, died November 20,2022 (11/20/2022) .**
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to **STEPHEN CARROLL** , personal representative, or to both the probate court at 212 E. Paw Paw Street, **#220, Paw Paw, MI 49079** and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
October 31, 2025
Attorney:
Nathaniel Harrington P74782
519 Main Street
St. Joseph, MI 49085
269-983-0561
Personal representative
Stephen Carroll
31330 66th Avenue
Lawton, MI 49065
269-624-5461

State of Michigan Probate Court
Van Buren County
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
DECEDENT'S ESTATE
CASE NO 2025-1175-DE
212 E. Paw Paw Street, #220,
Paw Paw, MI 49079
(269) 657-8225
Estate of WALTER STEFAN FORAN, Deceased Date of Birth:* January 6, 1942
TO ALL CREDITORS: **
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, **WALTER STEFAN FORAN, died March 5, 2025 (3/5/2025).**
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to **CYNTHIA SHERRY** , personal representative, or to both the probate court at 212 E. Paw Paw Street, **#220, Paw Paw, MI 49079** and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
October 31, 2025
Attorney:
Willis Law
Davis C. Martin P84717
491 W. South Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49007
(269) 492-1040
Personal representative
Cynthia Sherry
2427 N. Washtenaw
Chicago, IL 60647
773-936-2246

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Pamela S. Bolden; Atty: Holzman, Ritter & Leduc, PLLC - Holzman Corkery, PLLC; 1st Pub: 10/9/2025; Atty File #: (N/A); Insurer: (unknown)
MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE NOTICE Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under Section 3212 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 P.M., on November 13, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Pamela S. Bolden, an unmarried person, ("Mortgagor"), gave a mortgage to Advia Credit Union, ("Mortgagee"), dated August 4, 2022, and recorded on August 9, 2022, in Liber 1741, on Page 964, Van Buren County Records, Michigan. On the date of this notice, there is claimed to be due the principal of Eight Thousand Six Hundred Forty-Seven Dollars and 79/100 Dollars ($8,647.79) plus accrued interest at 7.0% per annum. Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at the place of holding in the circuit court within Van Buren County, Michigan @ 1:00 P.M. on Thursday, November 13, 2025. Said premises are situated in the Township of Antwerp, County of Van Buren, State of Michigan, and are described as: Lot 10, RIDGELAWN SUBDIVISION, as recorded in Liber 6, Page 23 of Plats, Van Buren County Records. Commonly: 28859 Violet Ave, Paw Paw, MI 49079—Tax Id #80-02-415-010-00 The redemption period shall be six months from the date of such sale unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. If the property is sold at a foreclosure sale, under Section 600.3278 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, the Mortgagor will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Dated: October 9, 2025 Advia Credit Union, Mortgagee Holzman Law, PLLC By: Charles J. Holzman Attorney for Mortgagee 28366 Franklin Road Southfield, Michigan 48034 (248)352-4340
(10-09)(11-06)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Kay O`Neil; Atty: Schneiderman & Sherman, P.C. - Schneiderman & Sherman, PC; 1st Pub: 10/23/2025; Atty File #: 25-002950-1; Insurer: (unknown)
SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - VAN BUREN COUNTY Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 49c of the State Housing Development Authority Act of 1966, 1966 PA 346, MCL 125.1449c, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on November 20, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Kay O`Neil and Cameron Richardson, wife and husband Original Mortgagee: Neighborhood Loans, Inc. Date of mortgage: May 17, 2024 Recorded on May 28, 2024, Liber 1766, on Page 258, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Michigan State Housing Development Authority Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: One Hundred Ninety Thousand Nine Hundred Forty-Two and 05/100 Dollars ($190,942.05) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Van Buren County, and described as: Lot 3, Block 1, Union Addition to Lawton, according to the plat thereof recorded in Liber 10 of plats, Page 540, Van Buren County Records. Commonly known as 415 S Main St, Lawton, MI 49065 The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 125.1449v, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 125.1449v(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Michigan State Housing Development Authority Mortgagee/Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400 1575520
(10-23)(11-13)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Richard A Eisner; Atty: Schneiderman & Sherman, P.C. - Schneiderman & Sherman, PC; 1st Pub: 10/23/2025; Atty File #: 25-002985-1; Insurer: (unknown)
SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - VAN BUREN COUNTY Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on November 20, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Richard A. Eisner and Sharon K. Eisner, husband and wife Original Mortgagee: Household Bank, FSB Date of mortgage: September 7, 2001 Recorded on September 21, 2001, Liber 1340, on Page 71, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): New Residential Mortgage Loan Trust 2014-3 Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: Forty-Six Thousand Five Hundred Thirty-Five and 65/100 Dollars ($46,535.65) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Van Buren County, and described as: Lot 1 of Bangor Heights, according to the recorded plat thereof, being a subdivision of part of Lot 3 and Lot 16, Supervisor`s Plat of Zuhl Addition to Bangor, as recorded in Liber 4 of Plats on Page 40, and adjacent land in the north half of section 7, town 2 south, range 15 west, according to the Government Survey thereof. Commonly known as 29449 Eastwood Ln, Bangor, MI 49013 The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. New Residential Mortgage Loan Trust 2014-3 Mortgagee/ Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400 1575530
(10-23)(11-13)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Wesley B Ready Jr; Atty: Randall S. Miller & Associates, P.C. - Randall S. Miller & Associates, P.C.; 1st Pub: 10/30/2025; Atty File #: 24MI00680-2; Insurer: (unknown)
FORECLOSURE NOTICE
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 01:00 PM, December 4, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by Wesley B Ready Jr. and Teresa Taylor-Ready, Husband and Wife to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as Mortgagee, as Nominee for Primelending, A Plainscapital Company , its successors, and assigns, Mortgagee, dated September 30, 2021, and recorded on October 12, 2021, in Liber 1727, Page 298, Van Buren County Records, said mortgage was assigned to Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC by an Assignment of Mortgage dated April 23, 2025 and recorded April 23, 2025 in Liber 1778, Page 114, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Two Hundred Two Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety-Two and 07/100 ($202,892.07) including interest at the rate of 3.62500% per annum. Said premises are situated in the Township of Bloomingdale, Van Buren County, Michigan, and are described as: Beginning at the center of Section 21, Town 1 South, Range 14 West; Thence North 89 degrees 21 minutes 05 seconds West on the East and West 1/4 line 305.00 feet; Thence North parallel with the North and South 1/4 line, 385 feet; Thence South 89 degrees 21 minutes 05 seconds East parallel with the East and West 1/4 line 305.00 feet to the North and South 1/4 line, Thence South on same, 385.00 feet to the place of beginning. Commonly known as: 13756 41ST ST, BLOOMINGDALE, MI 49026 If the property is eventually sold at foreclosure sale, the redemption period will be 6.00 months from the date of sale unless the property is abandoned or used for agricultural purposes. If the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241 and/or 600.3241a, the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of sale, or 15 days after statutory notice, whichever is later. If the property is presumed to be used for agricultural purposes prior to the date of the foreclosure sale pursuant to MCL 600.3240, the redemption period is 1 year. Pursuant to MCL 600.3278, if the property is sold at a foreclosure sale, the borrower(s) will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. TO ALL PURCHASERS: The foreclosing mortgagee can rescind the sale. In that event, your damages are, if any, limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. Dated: October 30, 2025 Randall S. Miller & Associates, P.C. Attorneys for Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC 43252 Woodward Avenue, Suite 180, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302, (248) 335-9200 Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Case No. 24MI00680-2
(10-30)(11-20)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Nancy M. Dubois; Atty: Orlans; 1st Pub: 11/6/2025; Atty File #: 25-012980; Insurer: GNMA
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM on DECEMBER 4, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.
Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Nancy M. DuBois, a married woman, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Amerifirst Financial Corporation, Mortgagee, dated August 6, 2018 and recorded August 10, 2018 in Liber 1672, Page 378 and Loan Modification Agreement recorded on May 13, 2020, in Liber 1700, Page 95, Van Buren County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC, by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Forty-Three Thousand Five Hundred Twenty-Six and 25/100 Dollars ($143,526.25). Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the place of holding the circuit court within Van Buren County, Michigan at 1:00 PM on DECEMBER 4, 2025.
Said premises are located in the Village of Paw Paw, Van Buren County Michigan, and are described as:
Lots 4 and 5, Block 3 of Marcelletti's Addition to the Village of Paw Paw, according to the recorded Plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 4 of Plats, Page 9, and amended by Order of the Circuit Court as recorded in Liber 503, Page 121, Van Buren County Records.
501 Marcelletti Ave, Paw Paw, Michigan 49079
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period.
Dated: November 6, 2025
File No. 25-012980
Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC
Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084
Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400
(11-06)(11-27)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Annie B Niedzwiecki; Atty: PUBLIC NOTICE AGENCY - PUBLIC NOTICE AGENCY; 1st Pub: 11/6/2025; Atty File #: 25-014384; Insurer: (unknown)
Notice of Foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 01:00 PM on December 04, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Annie B. Niedzwiecki, a single woman Original Mortgagee: United States of America acting through the Rural Housing Service or successor agency, United States Department of Agriculture Date of mortgage: October 18, 2022 Recorded on October 31, 2022, Book #1745, on Page #365. Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: Three Hundred Thirty-Eight Thousand Five Hundred Forty-One and 48/100 Dollars ($338,541.48) Mortgaged premises: LAND SITUATED IN THE TOWNSHIP OF ANTWERP, COUNTY OF VAN BUREN, LOT 117, BROWNSTONE, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN LIBER 8 OF PLATS, PAGE 160, VAN BUREN COUNTY RECORDS, EXCEPT THE NORTH 5 FEET THEREOF, ANTWERP TOWNSHIP, VAN BUREN COUNTY, MICHIGAN. Commonly known as 49625 Chase Way Mattawan MI 49071 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961 pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. ALAW 5404 Cypress Center Drive, Suite 300, Tampa, FL 33609 (813) 221-4743 25-014384
(11-06)(11-27)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Mariah Cutlip; Atty: Team X; 1st Pub: 11/6/2025; Atty File #: 526641F01; Insurer: (unknown)
Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on December 11, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Mariah A. Cutlip and Wyman P. Cutlip, wife and husband
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Freedom Mortgage Corporation
Date of Mortgage: November 22, 2019
Date of Mortgage Recording: December 2, 2019
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $108,507.76
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Decatur, Van Buren County, Michigan, and described as:
The West 181.5 feet of the East 544.5 feet of South 231 feet of the Southwest 1/4 of the Northeast 1/4 of Section 17. Town 4 South, Range 14 West, Decatur Township Van Buren County, Michigan.
Common street address (if any): 42658 82nd Ave, Decatur, MI 49045-9175
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: November 6, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1576398
(11-06)(11-27)

DEER HUNTING AND DEER CAMP

Postal workers deer camp

Urp, urp, urp, and a pause. Then another urp, urp, and urp. The deer turned, stared in the direction of the sound, and trotted in. Five different bucks responded to my soft, subtle grunt call.

Every fifteen minutes or so, I will grunt softly a series as described. If I see a deer, I will do the same. Please do not call often, loudly, or for extended periods. A deer can hear a long way away, and your goal is to capture their attention.

I mentioned before that our group sits all day on the opener. We carry in snacks, water, and a ton of patience. We have zero squirrels, some birds, and a few mice to keep us entertained.

When a deer is taken, we skin and bone it in the woods. This reduces the weight to drag out. After field dressing the deer, we roll it onto a plastic tarp and skin it.

If the head will be mounted, we take along a generous amount of the hide. If not, then we cut the head off somewhere in the neck and carry only that portion out.

Our group enjoys salami and jerky. At some point in deer camp, we will clean every piece and grind the burger. Once home, we can make the salami and jerky.

Scouting is a large part of our downtime. If the tags are filled, numerous rides are in order. We search out new, clear cuttings and note where other cars are parked.

The rides provide great information for future hunts. A fresh, clear cut becomes a new food source. The absence of cars parked nearby suggests that other hunters might not have found it.

On our rides, our eyes are peeled for deer camps. On one such ride, we spotted what appeared to be a log cabin. In reality, it turned out to be a wall tent. The front of this tent was painted to look like a log cabin.

A bunch of photos were taken, and nobody was home. The following year, we drove by, wondering if this camp was back. Indeed, they were, so we stopped in. We were barely out of the truck when an older man came out, spotted us, and said, 'Stay where you are,' before he ran into the tent. We were just about ready to hop in the truck and bail out when he yelled, You took a photo of our deer camp last year and it's in a national magazine.

True, I wrote a series of articles, and two of the publications ran the photo as a cover shot. How this guy could so quickly remember my byline photo from the publication was a mystery to me.

Before his retirement, he lived ten miles from me. Ee traveled 450 miles to meet an ex-neighbor. The three hunters in this camp all worked together until retirement. Then Joe the head cheese moved to Texas, Ron to South Carolina, and Joe to Florida. These guys meet a week before the opener in Holland, pack up a utility trailer, and pull the trailer with a vintage International Scout. It was a hoot sitting around their wood stove listening to their stories.

On another ride, we spotted a buck pole that was holding perhaps ten deer, including three trophies. I got out with my camera in tow. The other two guys stayed in the truck. They were nervous that someone would come out.

A camp member came out, and I explained my presence. He invited me inside. We drank a beer, and he showed the camp logbook. Their camp was nearing 100 bears and 500 bucks.

The camp rule was that the second buck needed to be larger than the first. They had a cast-iron skillet that covered all 4 burners of the stove. Incredible.

They had a walk-in cooler and a sauna that held twenty people. This particular year, sixteen guys were in camp. This specific hunter uses chest-high waders to get to his deer stand. Meeting others and sharing a camp with friends are part of what makes deer season so special. Remember to visit Bob's Gun and Tackle Shop. I never shot any of the five bucks that I called in, but on November third, I did shoot a ten-pointer. My best deer to date.

Jack Payne

Payne is a member of OWAA (outdoor writers association of America). He is an avid outdoorsperson who enjoys fishing, hunting, hiking and cooking. This column will hopefully enhance your outdoor experiences. "While I may have some knowledge, I am very fortunate that I do know many true experts that share their knowledge with me," said Payne. "Together, hopefully we all can learn and experience more fun in the great outdoors."
Payne resides in southwest Michigan. His column will appear weekly in the Courier Leader/ Flashes.

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I SAW IT IN THE FLASHES

Lawton Lions Club to Hold Annual Thanksgiving Dinner

The Lawton Lions Club will once again host its annual Thanksgiving dinner on Sunday, November 23rd, at the Old Winery (formerly the Lawton Community Center). The event is free and open to the public, although donations are accepted, with proceeds to benefit scholarships for graduating Lawton High School seniors, awarded by the Lawton Lions.

The menu will include traditional Thanksgiving favorites, including turkey, ham, stuffing, mashed potatoes, corn, green bean casserole and a variety of desserts. Doors will be open from 11am to 2pm, for either dine-in or carry-out.

Other local non-profits and organizations also assist the Lions Club with the Thanksgiving dinner, including members of the Lawton High School National Honor Society. Dozens of corporate sponsors and community members from throughout the area also contribute food and financial assistance, including Honee Bear Canning, which provides nearly 40 turkeys.

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Call Anthony, 269-599-9528.

BLOOMINGDALE TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Please take notice that Bloomingdale Township will conduct a Public Hearing on November 19,2025 at 6:30pm, at the Bloomingdale Municipal center, 109 E. Kalamazoo St., Bloomingdale, Michigan. The intent of the Public Hearing is to hear and Consider objections to the Special Assessment Tax Roll and proposed **renewal** of Eagle Lake Weed Control Project, and all other matters relating to the proposed **renewal** of the Eagle Lake Weed Control Project for the eradication and control of aquatic weeds. Plans and costs are on file with the Township Clerk, This Public Hearing will be held as required under Public Act 188 of 1954, as amended, to hear objections to the proposed project. This Special Assessment District will include all Eagle Lake property owners in Bloomingdale Township.

Melanie Kelly, Clerk
Bloomingdale Township

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

Notice is hereby given that **The Shed Self Storage,** phone **(269) 200-2156**, located at **72819 M 40, Lawton, MI, 49065** will hold a Public Sale, to satisfy the lien of the owner. This notice is given in accordance with the provisions of Michigan Compiled Statutes 570.521 to 570.527. Units will be sold via online auction, at **www.LockerFox.com.** Auction will close on or after **Wednesday November 26, 2025 at 10:00 am.** The personal goods stored therein by the following may include, but are not limited to household goods, furniture, tools, equipment, toys, boxes, clothes and misc items. Owner reserves the right to bid and the right to refuse bids. Cleanup deposit is required. Sale is subject to cancellation. The contents of the rental storage units belonging to the following persons will be sold:
William Stayner
Paul Hatfield

BLOOMINGDALE TOWNSHIP NOW ACCEPTING BIDS

Bloomingdale Township is currently accepting bids for Janitorial Services Contractor at the Bloomingdale Municipal Center. Interested parties will need to be licensed and insured. Please contact Supervisor Matt Ashbrook or Clerk Melanie Kelly for project details. Please mail sealed bids to Bloomingdale Township, PO Box 11, Bloomingdale, MI 49026. Or, hand deliver to drop box or office located at 109 E. Kalamazoo St., Bloomingdale, MI 49026

Melanie Kelly, Bloomingdale Township Clerk

BLOOMINGDALE TOWNSHIP INVITATION TO BID

The Township of Bloomingdale will be accepting sealed bids for Seasonal Mowing/ Plowing of the listed properties for 2026/2027 and 2027/2028 seasons. This will be a two-year contract beginning April 1, 2026 through March 31, 2028. Bids should also include Seasonal Snowplowing of the Fire Station property, Bear Lake access, Muskrat Lake access, Mud Lake Drive, and the Municipal Building parking lot behind the building for the 2026/2027 and 2027/2028 seasons.

Plowing

- Plow Fire Station whenever 3 inches or more of snow falls.
- Plow Muskrat and Bear Lake Fire Lane accesses whenever 6 inches of snow falls.
- Plow Mud Lake Drive whenever 3 inches or more of snow falls.
- Plow back parking lot of Municipal Building whenever 3 inches or more of snow falls.
- Front and sidewalks of Municipal Building must be shoveled whenever 3 inches of snow falls

Mowing

- Mowing Fire Station when grass reaches between 3-4 inches
- Spring and Fall Clean-up at Fire Station

The Township Board reserves the right to reject any or all bids. Bids must be listed at a per year rate for both mowing and plowing. Proof of Insurance must be provided with bid. Bids will be opened and contract awarded during the Regular Board Meeting of Bloomingdale Township Board at 7:00 p.m., December 17, 2025.

Send (or drop off) sealed bids to Bloomingdale Township office by 12:00 p.m. on December 17, 2025. For more information, contact the Bloomingdale Township office, 109 E. Kalamazoo Street, P.O. Box 11, Bloomingdale, MI 49026, or by phone Matthew Ashbrook (269) 521-3800 ext. 1.

Melanie Kelly, Clerk

• CLASSIFIEDS •

• WANTED •

WE BUY OLD BASEBALL CARDS, OTHER SPORTS MEMORABILIA AND OLD VINTAGE COINS. CAN BE REACHED AT 517-416-1629. WE PAY CASH.

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BUYING JUNK CARS, trucks, scrap metal and farm machinery. Kalamazoo Metal Recyclers, 1525 King Highway, Kalamazoo. 269-381-1315.

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SOUTH HAVEN AREA
Call 269-903-6397.

• HOUSING •

TWO BEDROOM RIVERFRONT APARTMENT FOR RENT, NEWLY REMODELED, $1000 per month plus utilities, $1500 deposit. Must provide proof of income. No pets. 1 year lease. Rental references and background check required. 269-720-4856.

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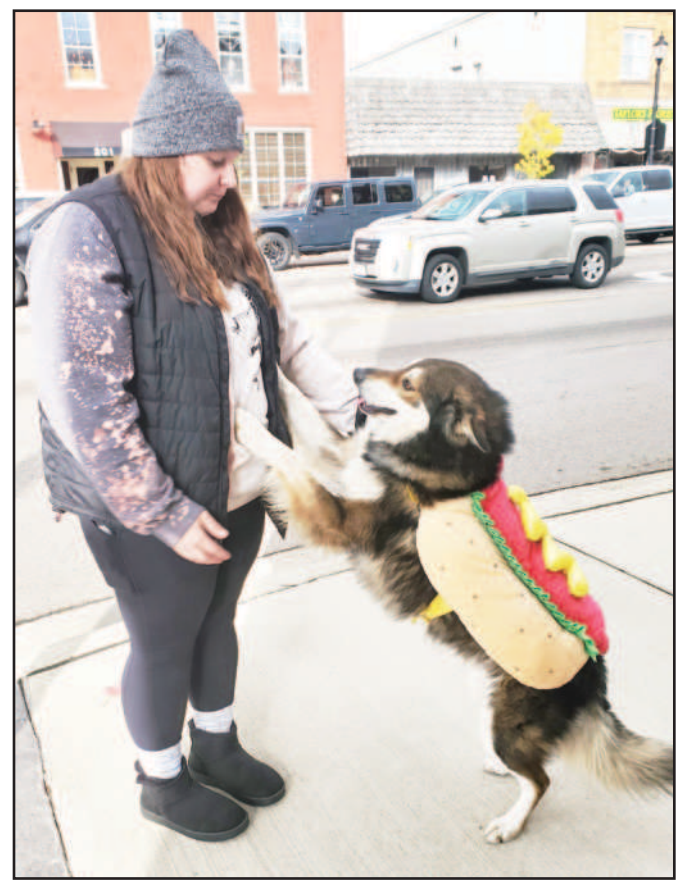
(269) 998-6977

Downtown Paw Paw "treats" area children on Halloween



Area children dressed in Halloween attire, took to the downtown streets of Paw Paw on Friday, Oct. 31, Halloween, in search of treats from downtown merchants. The event was sponsored by the Paw Paw Downtown Development Association, as well as the downtown merchants and business owners outside the central business district.

Courier-Leader photos/Paul Garrod

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